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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,993	01/12/2001	Conrad V. Anderson	56077USA7A.002	1053

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EXAMINER

OSELE, MARK A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1734

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2002

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,993

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Mark A Osele

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-18 and 21-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 6, 8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 8, 12, 14-15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by any of Smith, Tezuka, Ida et al., or Sakai. Each of the references shows a film removal method and apparatus comprising applying tension over the width of the adhesive film by adhering the film to a take up roll, transferring the tension onto the substrate through a compressive roller, as the removal apparatus is moved from a first end of the film to the opposite end. The compressive force is applied along the release line (Smith, Fig. 3; Tezuka Figs. 2B-2D; Ida et al., Figs. 4, 8; Sakai, Figs. 7, 8).

Regarding claim 14, both the winding device and the compressive roller of Ida et al. are the same element.

3. Claims 1, 3-4, 8-12, 16-17, 21-22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent Publication 2643487 (Apollonio et al.). Apollonio et al. shows a film removal method and apparatus comprising applying tension over the width of the adhesive film by adhering the film to a take up roll, 24, transferring the tension onto the substrate through a compressive roller, 34, such that as the removal

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apparatus is moved from a first end of the film to the opposite end the release line and compressive roller are also moved. In the method shown, the compressive roller moves at a distance behind the release line (Fig. 3; English translation, page 5, paragraph 1). Apollonio et al. further teaches adding a heater to the method (page 5, paragraph 2).

4. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-10, 12, 16, 18, 21-22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. Kuroda et al. shows a film removal method and apparatus comprising applying tension over the width of the adhesive film by adhering the film to a take up roll, 18, transferring the tension onto the substrate through a compressive roller, 8, such that as the removal apparatus is moved from a first end of the film to the opposite end the release line (at roller 6) and compressive roller are also moved. In the method shown, the compressive roller moves at a distance ahead of the release line (See Fig. 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith. Smith shows a film removal method for "relatively wide tapes" (column 1, lines 28-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made that the device of Smith could be used for removal of large-scale adhesive films.

7. Claim 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French Patent Publication 2643487 (Apollonio et al.). Apollonio et al. shows the claimed features except for a variable speed motor and a conformable roller. Both of these are conventional: variable speed motors allow for operator control of the processing speed, especially at start up or nearing completion; conformable rollers are used to reduce the risk of damage to a substrate (See Stadtmueller). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made add the claimed variable speed motor and conformable roller to the apparatus of Apollonio et al. to increase operator control and reduce the risk of damage.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 6-7 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art suggests any mechanism for changing the distance between the release line and the compressive force as the film is peeled from the substrate.

Claim Objections

10. Claims 1 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 1 and 14 claim that the tension is "distributed" to the substrate but a more descriptive term is that the tension is "transferred" to the substrate (See Page 6, second full paragraph of the instant specification). Appropriate correction is required.

Information Disclosure Statement

11. The information disclosure statement filed January 29, 2002 fails to provide a legible copy each foreign patent. Applicant is asked to please submit copies of the two German Patents and one U.K. Patent.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tsumura et al., Candore, Annenkov et al., Murray et al., Platzer, and Funakoshi et al. each show film removal methods with compressive forces on a substrate.

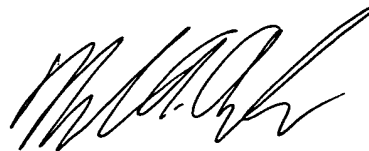
13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A Osele whose telephone number is 703-308-2063.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 703-308-3853. The fax phone

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numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Osele', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARK A. OSELE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 30, 2002